

State of Oregon
WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
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CHAIRMAN, SUSAN ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER, TODD NASH
COMMISSIONER, PAUL CASTILLEJA

February 24, 2017

Kris Stein, District Ranger
Wallowa Mountains Office
PO Box 905
Joseph, Oregon 97846

ATTN: Sitka Pence

RE: Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project

Dear Kris:

The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners would like to commend you and your staff at the Wallowa Mountains Office of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest for the effort put forth on the Lostine Public Safety Project.

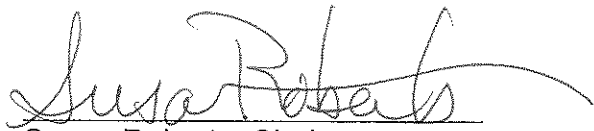
We agree that the need for action in the Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project is necessary and imperative to help provide for safety and enjoyment of this high use recreation area by the public.

The creation of defensible space around identified historical areas, removing hazard trees along the Lostine Road Corridor and decreasing the risk of potential high intensity wildfires in this high use recreation area is essential for public safety.

We do feel that the proposal should be very aggressive in the removal of the lodgepole pine stands in the area due to their deteriorated condition from overstocking and mountain pine bark beetle activity; and the opportunity to provide firewood from this project, given its close proximity to Wallowa Valley's population centers, is a valuable benefit of this project.

Again Kris; the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners thank you, your staff and the US Forest Service, on behalf of our community, for the time and effort to provide an action plan for public safety in the high risk Lostine River Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Susan Roberts, Chair
Wallowa County Board of Commissioners